Important Operations the Yazoo River THE LANDING OF THE

STUBBORN RESISTANCE OF THE REBELS.

March of the Troops Vicksburg,

Our Army Correspondence.

GUNROAT MARMORA, BRLOW GARNES' LANDING, }
MESSISSIPPI RIVER, Dec. 23, 1862. The difficulties attending the despatch of communications up the river, offer but little encouragement to a correspondent to prosecute his labors with any degree of industry. The great armada is moving down, and until it es its destination the course of all vessels will be ward, carrying us farther and farther daily from sall and express facilities. For this reason I can only ow my letters somewhat into the form of a journal, or diary, and await a favorable opportunity for despatching

It is something to say that the great and long talked of Mississippi River Expedition is finally on the move. And a formidable expedition it is. One standing upon the banks this great river and watching its passage must be ruck with the immense resources and vast power of the vernment of the United States, and however strong the observor's prejudices may be, a single giance at this mighty fleet, which has been called into existence like magic by the legitimate government, and which is but a on with what the Union authorities are able to command—I say, however strong the observer's pre-judices may be, he must be convinced that all hopes of ultimate success in contending against such a power are fullie and childish. I have conversed with planters and citizens along the river, and this seems to be the unanimous sentiment. It is a to establish an independent government under h they were to enjoy boundless my thical blessings.

eturn to their allegiance very much in the mood byhipped spaniel obeys the order of his master the a discouraged, disheartened, sullen, embittered in, tired of the strife in which they have been see ring and distress, and anxious to return to the ted avocations of peace—preferring, withal, a peace andeeirable accompaniment of the Northern association.
This I find to be the universal sentiment along the river
so far as I have conversed with the people, and I have

ole one. I am not at liberty to mention the exact per of troops in the movement. These steam trans-received their living freight, part at Memphis-the balance at Helena—about an equal number from each place. The whole is under the imme-diate command of Major General William T-Sherman, late commandant at Memphis, subject to general orders from Major General Grant, commanding the department. The Memphis troops (one division of them) embarked on Saturday, and dropped down the river to Friar's Peint, which had been determined upon as a place of rendezvous. Here they were joined by Admiral Porter, with his flag ship Uncle Sam, designed as a roy, the main portion of the naval squadron being ady at anchor off the mouth of the Yazoo river, a few niles above Vicksburg. On Sunday evening the gunboat: Marmora, Captain Getty, and the Conestoga, Captain Se: fridge, arrived from Cairo and came to anchor under the f the flag ship, increasing the convoying force. On the same evening the Helena troops embarked on about thirty steamers, came into the common rendezvous, and

Nearly one haif of the village of Friar's Point, em. dwellings, was wantonly set on fire last night and burned

DOUBÇIL OF WAR SETWEN THE MILITARY AND NAVAL CON-

On Monday morning the commanders of the army and many were engaged for a very long time in communi-cating with each other by means of signals, and finally where a protracted interview was had, at which the de In this manner nearly the whole forenoon was consumed and it was eleven o'clock before the fleet got under weigh Having started, they steamed along at a good rate speed, without any incident worthy of record, until sunset, when we came to just below the mouth of the White riyer, the naval vessels anchoring in the stream and the army transports tying up to the banks. From some unexplained reason the fleet of transports

did not all reach the rendezvous, nor had they all come sp at the hour of starting in the morning, which was much earlier than on the previous morning. At eight e'clock we were under weigh again, steaming down stream. A good rate of speed was kept up during the forenoon, and until about two P. M., when we rounded to proved to be an all night's waiting, vessels arriving con, glers of the original fleet, but the remaining division of the the light draught gonboat Forest Rose.

RIGHT VIEW OF THE ARMY AND NAVY.

The sight that was presented at this landing during the the banks were lived with transports as far as could be soldiers on the shores, very strikingly resembled in th darkness a vast city at night. The effect was heightene by the burning buildings, cotton gins and wood piles . either bank, which had been fired by the soldiery.

DESTRICTION OF THE TOWN OF GAINER LANDING Half the town of Games Landing was laid in ruins, in cluding a fine large cotton warehouse, and the residence and outbuildings of Mr. Gaston, who is well known as bold and outspoken Union man. A fine plantation just below and on the outskirts of the town was completely supplied with elegant buildings and one of the inthe opposite side of the river some extensive woo piles, centaining not less than a thousand cords of well seasoned wood, were fired and faid in ashes, in conequence of which wood is exceedingly scarce along the river. The fleet of transports will find great trouble in getting up the river again. This wood was needed by them, and because of its destruction they will now be

In contrast with these acts of the army the conduct of the savy stands out to conspicuous and most highly cre-Otable character. The Admiral permits none of his sich to land unless on special business, and then requires them to be accompanied by a proper officer Last evening he had occasion to procure some supplies, when he sen the planters had them and refused to sell them, the take them by force and to leave a receipt for them. It nordless to say the secretary was well received, and a villing dispesition was manifested to supply his wants and nding even to the calling out of the slaves to go into

see what catch some shoop, which were related in the seek solicies.

He proposed for the pay that at an interview between the proposed shorman last evening, the latter

pressed his determination to take immediate steps to have them stopped and to have the offenders punished.

Haines' Biuff, twenty-three miles up the Yazze, and reduce it at all hazards. We hope new to get down in time to participate in this action. The battery is in a commanding position, and mounts twelve heavy guns. Its immediate reduction is essential to the plans arainst Viewshars. At this paint

that point until the arrival of the transport feet. premature announcement in recording here the glad tidings of the destination of the Banks expedition though I shall be agreeably disappointed if I surprise you, as doubtless the administration has revealed the

ORNET OF THE BANES EXPEDITION.

General Banks sailed with orders to supersede General

Butler in command of the Department of the Gulf scoon as he should arrive at New Orienns. He was also to move immediately up the river and form a junction with General Sherman and Admiral Porter at Vicksburg at a specified time. That time has now about transpired, and a specified time. That time has new about transpired, and we all look confidently to meeting that force on our arrival at Vicksburg, or to being joined by them very scon after we arrive. Intelligence has already been received that Admiral Farragut was off Port Hudson on the 18th inst. He does not appear to have been making any determined demonstration against that fertification; but as the 19th was the day appointed for General Benks to be there, the Admiral was probably only reconnoitering and awaiting the General's arrival. Port Hudson is very strong, as against a naval attack; but its garrison is known to be small—only two or three thousand at most—and its land defences are remidiferent, so that with any decent land force there need be no trouble in taking th position. If Admiral Farragut has, as reported, reached that point, he will find, after passing it, no trouble in

Should we succeed in taking Vicksburg—of which no one entertains the slightest doubt—that place and the lower river will be committed to the care and receping of General Banks and Admiral Farragut, while this expedition pushes on up the Yazoo river, with a view of forming a junction with General Grant at Yazoo City. Jeff Davis has publicly declared, so I am informed, that the great buttle of the Southwest would be fought in the vicinity of the latter city. My own impressions are that they will not fight in the immediate vicinity of Yazoo City, but will get back from the river to avoid our gunboats. If this is their policy, both General Grant and General Shorman are prepared to General Grant and General Sherman are prepared to accommodate them. The former is now moving overland and is, of course, provided with all the land transports tion he requires. General Sherman has an abundance of transportation wagons and mules with him on his trans ports, and is prepared for any movement of that nature that may be required of him.

OFF ISLAND No. 95, MINISTRIPF: RIVER, Dec. 25, 1862.

THE SOLLERS OF THE SAMSON.

Late in the afternoon yesterday the Samson burned one of her boilers quite badly, and we were obliged to cound to and wait for her to repair. The evening was sound to and wait for her to repair. very fine one 2 the moon shining brightly, and but for this accident there would have been no obstacle in the way of our running at least half the night. As it is we

While we lay at anchor last evening nearly the entir While we lay at anchor last evening nearly the entire licet of transports ran by us, furnishing us a most beautiful sight. There were sixty-size of them, all running in close order, with signal lights of red, white and green hurning, and cabins lighted up, making a recensurpassing any panorama that was ever painted. We could disbelow us as the mosplight was fading into darkness and we now have some expectation of running by them during the day. There seems to be some faux pas in their movements, as they were running down last night with out any navy convoy whatever. The Admiral has not yet passed down, though the Conestoga, one of the convoying fleet, passed us this morning, and ran on evidently

Yazoo Rives, Dec. 26, 1862. Without any further accident we kept on our ree yesterday, reaching the mouth of the Yazo at about five o'clock in the afternoon. Here an unlucky accident occurred. The Samson rounding to struck the iron-clad gunbout De Knil with one of her barges of coal, injuring the latter to such an extent that she sunk almost instantly. The DeKalb was not injured by the accident nor the Samson. The large had about eight thousand bushels of ccal aboards which is a total loss, and a very severe one, as coal as a great scarcity just now, and unless the Ohio quickly rises on the falls at Louisville no amount of money will replace the lost fuel. As it is the fleet is left with a single barge containing scant seven thousand bushels.

ARRIVAL AT THE MOUTH OF THE TAZOC On our arrival at the mouth of the Yanco we found of the may al fleet the flagship Black Hawk (hitherto known the Uncle Sam), the Baron Delialh Carondelet dads but the flagship-the ram Sweetland and following transports, with troops and supplies made fast

Forest Queen (flagsbip),		Die Vernen,
Empress,		War Eagle.
Founy Bullitt,		Conway,
Crescont City,		Von Phui
Belle Peorin,		Lady Jack
Pembina,		Des Metro.
Josse K. Belle,		Nerthere .
Champion,		Post Boy
Roy West		Continental,
Sam Gaty,		Polar Star,
Adriatic,		Gladiator.
Isabella.		Sicker State,
L. M. Konnett,		Meteor,
Daniel G. Taylor,		Warner.
Famby Ogden,		Gen. Anderson,
J R. Williams.	19015	Thomas E. Tutt.
Tecumseh,		Emma.
Stephen Decatur,		latan,
Dacotali,		Southwest,
Ella,		Planet,
John J. Roe.		Chancellor,
Nebraska.		City of Memphis.
Simir.		Oronho,
Servad Fagle,		Universe,
Edward Walsh,		Westmoreland,
Sunny South.		Southwester.

in addition to the above, we passed about fifteen trans oris, with troops, in Milliken's Bend, twelve miles abov. the Yazoo, landel for a special service, to which I will

The grou-clad gunboat Benton, with the light draught Signal Nomeo and Juliet, and the old class wooden gon-heats Tyler and Lexington, with the rams License and bloom of she West, were up the Yazan a short distance. This teerning the light draught gunbeat Foroat Greet watern, having in tow two morter beat the Courses is still at Milliken's Bend, protecting the troops and transports at that point.

THE PERSON CUT OFF PROP ARKANIAS SUPPLIES. From Millinea's Bond back to the Shrowport and Vicks, burg Pailread is about twenty miles. Any reinforcements for Velecturg from Arkansas would come over this road, and, as it was likely that the robel army in Arkanean would be sent to Vicksburg as soon as it was known that the bulk of the Union orce had been withdrawn from Belena, it was deemed this railroad. It was to accomplish this purpose that the narching twenty miles inland, they will out twenty-five or thirty roller 

Yano, on a new orrand, last night. They seems and railroad some ten or twelve miles from Vicksburg, and templetely descriped it for the distance of a mile or more, berning one quite large bridge. This expedition returned to safety this morning.

The troope that obserted as Milliken's Bend signalized their sevent that the large the large.

The troops that debarked at Milliken's Bend signalized their sevent there by laying the town that goes by that same in asbes. The town of Milliken's Bend was the trading and shipping point for a very large extent of territory. It contained half a dozen stores, some large warehouses, two or three dozen dwellings, besides churches, he tells, rehoolhouses, &c. The Bend is about ten miles long, and is the most thickly settled locality along the banks of the Mississippl. It is now laid in reles. The destruction was the unauthorized work of the saiders of General Sherman's army. As a matter of justice the people dwelling in this Hend deserved this retribution for their pereistent, barbaric warfare upon unarmed boats Scarcely a vessel has passed through the Bend since the creant concealed behind the levee or in a convenien clump of trees. Our gunboats even have not escaped this guerilla fire. A petty officer on the gunboat Caire was shot in this Bend a short time ago, and others of our was not in this being a short time ago, and others of our neval vessels have been defaulty fired into. Even yesterday the rascals bad the audacity to fire into the steamer Champian No. 3, one of the vessels of the armada, with a six-pounder field piece, sending a ball through her pilot house, barely escaping the pilot's head. is due to the other points higher up the siver that have

retion. A little well-timed severity would check all rictions tendencies and prevent the recurrence of acts as those referred to on the part of our soldiery.

tance a determined effort was made to restrain the men and that, by order of the commanding officer, they were fired upon and seven of them killed and cleven wounded. I mention the report in justice to General Sherman, mer ly expressing the hope that it is true.

On Tuesday last the Benton, with the boats ment sent up that river with instructions to ascend to the vici nity of Drumgool's Bluff, (or Baines' Bluff, as it is called here), and take possession of the river and held it at all hazards. Considerable difficulty was ex-perienced in getting up the stream. When in the vicinity of the noint where the Cairo was sunk by a torpedo, a small beat was sent to the bank to feel along for cords or wiree that might indicate the vicinity of one of these submarine infernal machines Scarcely had the boat reached the heak when it was fired upon with a volley of morketry and nine of its crew wounded. A vigorous shelling of the shore followed; but the enemy, concealed behind the natural breastwork furnished by the levee, escaped unbarmed. Soon after the glg of the Lexington was passing to the Benton, when it was met with a perfect bailstorm of musketry, making it almost a miracle that any one on board escaped alive. As it was, I believe no one was injured. The tug Erebus was also fired upon and completely riddled with rife balls, some of which passed through the neavy boiler iron with which the tug is covered, wounding the engineer and cook very everely. The expedition, however, worked its way up to the point designated, and then one of the light draught gunbonts—the Signal—and a ram, were assigned to patrol the river below them to the mouth. On the following day, as the Signal was passing along her best, she dis-covered two regiments of reboi infantry drawn up on the bank. She fired her broadside of four howitzers into them, which they returned with such vigor that the beat was obliged to back off in order to relead her guns. She succeeded, however, after a short engagement, in dis persing them, giving them grape and canister to their entire satisfaction. No one was hart on the gunboat.

This morning the whole expedition, with the exception of the boats left at Milliken's Bend, got under weigh and moved up the Yazoo river, convoyed by the flagship Black Hawk, Baron De Kalb, Cincinnati, Louisville and Marmora, the rest of the naval feet remaining at the up the stream without say incident about sixteen miles, where the debarkation of troops commenced. In the meantime, the gunboats Benton and Laxington moved on measures, the gurboals Benson and Laxington moved on up to Antony 's-Ferry, within a mile and a half of the battery on Drumgool's Bluff (or Haines' Bluff), and commenced a vigorous shelling of the battery and the robel camp adjoining. Under this diver-sion the troops were safely debarked at various points from the junction of the Varce with the Old River up to Johnson's Ferry, a distance of three miles. The debarka tion was entirely on the south or Vicksburg side of the

As I write (8 P. M.) they are nearly all ashore, and moving inland by brigades and divisions, the men all in excellent spirits and anxious to fall in with the enemy-I understand that one brigade will move directly back to the line of the Jackson and Vicksburg Railroad, about five or ten miles directly inland and twenty miles from Viekeburg, and destroy the bridges and trestle work at the erce will move down the Vicksburg road, and take up position in rear of the town preparatory to an attack. The distance from Johnson's Ferry to Vicksburg is but eight miles, with a good road all the way.

The weather has been fine and pleasant since we left Memphis until this evening. To-night we have had cot iderable lightning, and it is now raining, with a fair prospect of continuous stormy weather.

JOHNSON'S LANDING, YAZOO RIVER, Dec. 27, 1862.

MORE TROOPS.

This morning the following additional transports a rived from Milliken's Bend .-Des Arc.
Metropeitan,
J. C. Swan,
Citizen,
J. W. Cheesman,
City of Alton,
R. Campbell, Jr. J. S. Pringle, Duke of Argyle, Louisiana,

The troops that debacked yesterday had all moved in and previous to the arrival of the above, and these follows: seen as they were landed. It has been ascertaine, but the main rebel army is at Hames' Blaff, and our force are moving to get into position behind them. Nothing The rebels are fourteen or afteen thousand strong, and strengly posted, commanded by a General G. W. Smith (not Gustavus), though on the authority of an "intelligent cutraband" I am authorized to state that General Lee is directing operations from Vicksburg

JEST, DAVIS ARRIVAD AT VICESTICES on Saturday last and remained until Tuesday. He has a grand review of the troops at Hainbe' Bluff on Monday, on which occarion he made a speech, assuring them that the robel cause was safe and victorious at the East, and that everything now depended on the valor of the Southwestern army, and that Vicksburg must be held at all hazards; and a good deal more in the same vein. His presence inspired the soldiers with much euthori asto

This morning the gunboat fleet was ordered to move up the river and attack the rebel battery at Haines' Bloff, with a view of attracting attention from the army movements in the roar. The morning and much of the after void torpedoes. Five of those submarine infernals were found and removed without accident. The iron-clads then got under weigh again and moved up sition, and about half a mile distant, and opened the ongagement at four o'clock P. M. promety. The Benton bad the lead, and secured a good possess directly in the bend. The Baron De Kalb, Cincinnati and Louisville got into position under the stern of the Benton, firing meantime scress the point. All the buts emproved every opportunity to fire upon the enemy, making a very bris cannonating and doing the execution. The Lexington also made fast to the south bank and made herself useful. To all this cannonading the enemy kept up a vigorous response, revealing seven guns, all located in separate batteries upon the bluffs and in its face, no two guns be ng within three bandred yards of each other. Their firing showed three very heavy rifled guns and other

The engagement lasted an bour and a quarter. The Benton by in a very exposed position, and the enemy's missiles fell about her like hail. She was strock twentyave times, twelve shots passing through her decks, ports and upper works, doing considerable execution. None of

Captain Gwin, commanding the Benton, while standing

away, and his right long badly injured. He has considerable hemorrhage this evening, and but little hopes are cotertained for his recevery. He was one of the most gallast and brave officers in the squadron, and his miniferture has awakened very general sympathy and sorlow. He was married quite secontly to him flutchinana, of New York, and returned from his wedding trip only in time to join this expedition.

Among the casualties on the Beston were the follow-

illed.

E. C. D. Brennan, master's mate, slightly. Thomas Smith, seaman, mortally. Alex. Lynch, seaman, slightly in head. Alex. Lynch, seaman, iower jaw broke. Stephen Waish, seaman, slightly in leg. James Culleen, seaman, slightly in head. George Callunder, seaman, slightly in head.

The following is a list of efficers of the Reuton —
Lieutenant Commander—Win. Gwin, commanding,
Acting Master and Executive Officer—George P. Lord.
Ensign—J. Frans. Roed.
Acting Ensigns—Giftman G. Glover, Charles A. Wright,
J. M. Walker, Wm. J. Lees.
Acting Assistant Paymanten—C. G. Lounds.
Acting Master's Maten—E. C. Bacener, John Ackiey.
Acting Chief Engineer—Joseph V. Starr.
Acting First Assistant Engineer—H. W. Fairfewl.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer—C. N. Rigely, Robert
10We, Oliver Bray.
Gunner—N. B. Willette.
Pilots—R. E. Burch, James F. Morten.
The Clucinnat was struck once, but was not invested at

The Clucinnati was struck ence, but was not injured at all. No casualties occurred on any of the other vensels. Mr. Reese, Executive Officer of the Marmora, was on the Benton at the time of the engagement, and was injured quite badly, though not seriously, in the arm and

reast by a splinter.

Night approaching, the vessels withdrew from the action, closing the engagement at five o'clock and twenty

we have no means of knowing wast calling or injuring them equite as seriously as they did us. Our guns were admi-rably simed, and our shot could be seen falling very thickly all about the robel batteries, throwing up the sand in clouds. The rebel position is a very strong one Nothing has yet been heard from Admiral Farri

## IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

The Reported Assault and Capture of Puebla.

Five Thousand French Said to Have Defeated Twenty-five Thousand Mexicans.

THE FRENCH IN POSSESSION OF PUEBLA

The Fortress of Perote Abandoned by the Mexicans.

The steamship Eagle, Captain Adams, from Havana 2d castant, arrived at this port last evening. She briggs important news from Mexico.

Our Havana Correspondence. mportant news from Mexico.

Our Havana Correspondence. HAVANA COFFEEDOMCENCE. 12 1862.

The iron-clad frigate La Normandie has brought us Mexican news to the 20th instant of great importance, since it informs us of the advance of the French army on Puebla, the defences of which are said to be very strong all further idea of the conquest of Mexico; not because a repulse would daunt those brave soldiers, but because it would cause a delay much more disastrous than half a dozen repulses; for you will remember that, without a battle, they have already lost probably half the expeditionary army through sickness. But General Forey fintends doing all in his power to prevent any such ill luck attending him, for his intention is not to make a direct attack on the fortifications, but to surreund Puebla in such a manner as to cut of all communication from the surrounding country, and thus compel its surreuder. The garrisons of Vers Cruz, Jalapa, Cordova, Orizaba and Tampico have been withdrawn, with the exception of a small guard, in order that the besigning army may be as strong as possible. This cautious policy of General Forcy shows what he thinks would be the consequences of a repulse.

The French have built a bridge at Soledad, and the road from there to Vera Cruz is alive with convoys of provisions and materials of war. It is said the guerillas have ccaused their predatory warfare, and that since the occupation of Jalapa very few have shown themselves. Five hundred mules from New York and Sainlago de cuba, and two hundred and fifty wagons from the former place, had arrived at Vera Cruz and been forwarded to rizaba.

A remor was prevalent in Vera Cruz that Gen. Donai's division had reached Amozoc, which is but a very short

Tompico to the Fortress of Perote, which, however, has been dismantled and the guns taken to Puebla. The fall of this place would undoubtedly open the read to the capital, whither the Erench would march without any maternal opposition, notwithstanding all we have heard about the fortifications of that city. The point of interest therefore is Puebla, and neither party will be in a harry to act lest an accident might precipitate fresult dreaded by both alike. It is a matter of speciation whether the astute Frenchman or the willy like fican will succeed in a game where the glory of the one and the country of the other is the stake that is played for, and our jungment in this, as in many other matters, may probably be warped by our wishes and inclinations. I may as well mention that the officers of La Normandie are in possession of a numor that Puebla had been taken before they left Vera Cruz, but that rumor is unquestionably promature, and another evidence that the wish is father to the thought. They may probably have a longer siege and harder time at Puebla than they imagine.

wish is far her to the thought. They may probably have a longer stege and harder time at Fuebin than they imagine.

As soon as the Governor of the State of Tamaulipas (General Loper, knew of the cocupation of Tampico by the French he proclaimed martial law and gave orders for every man to arm himself. I find a part of his proclamation in the Brownsville Hanser, which runs as follows—Frizov Cruzens—Tamaulipas has been called to earn her share of glory. You are tew, but your valer will be great I do not offer you ease; I do not after you with agreat resources; no you shall have many hardships to endure, you shall indergosevere fatigues; but in exchange you will have the bonorable title of defenders of the country—a title which entits men, and raises them above the level of others. I count upon you. All should lend their services. No one should accuse himself, since he has a sacred interest to defend. In the name of a threatened country, you independence attacked, and your violated rights, I call upon you, that we may march to meet the stranger and defend the holy cause of our nationality. If General Lopez fights as well as he writes, he will do something worth moutioning one of these days. But his preclamation has not prevented the French from marching out of Tampico to join their comrades in Orizaba, who now held the whole of the valley of San Andrea as far as Amonoc. Boolado has done nothing but get thrashed, flias Sane as overrun by the followers of Mejla, who is became affaid to star. In abovt, if the stone wails of Puebla do not check the French Mexico lies at the feet of large.

By the steamer McClellan, from New Orleans, arrived at this port yesterday, we have some very important news, if true, from Mexico. The following is taken from

SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 4, 1862.

owing interesting item of news:—
A French force of about five thousand men (part of the advance guard) met and engaged a Mexican division of about twenty-five thousand, commanded by General Ortega, near the town of Paebla, and after a sharp fight

The victors took possession of Puebla, where they still await the arrival of reinforcements, and will then advance on the city of Mexico, distant ninety miles. A French force (6,000) landed and took possession of Tampico. It is supposed that port will be opened to the commerce of the world; but trade will not be permitted o extend beyond the limits held by the invaders.

A French frigate, with colors flying, was recently seen by some Mexicane passing through the Union fleet of the mouth of the Rio Grande, and supposing that all of the vessels belonged to the same nationality, they made pest haste to Matamoros with the alarming intelligence attack the town.

was not until the facts of the case were ascertained and nade public that confidence was restored. The foregoing explains many of the rumors in circulation

INTERESTING FROM KEY WEST.

MOVEMENTS OF FEDERAL SHIPS-OF-WAR

Capture of the Anglo-Rebel Brig Comet.

Numerous Arrivals at Havana from the South,

by the arrival of the steamship McClellan, Capt. Gray which is fully detailed in our regular correspondence.

Our Key West Correspondence. KEY West, Dec. 2d, 1862. Why—The Condition of the Eastern Gulf Blockading Squadron—Wilkes and Ris Plying Squadron—Admiral Squadron Wilkes and the Feyning symmetric in Hovaria
Wilkes at the Presentation of a Trampet in Hovaria
About the Time Semmes Cuptures the Ariel—Saiting of United States Steamers-Commander Spotts-Arrival of the United States Steamer Tioga—Wreck of the Ship Thomas Jefferson on the Bahamas—Sale of the Wrecked

We hear from Havans of the numerous arrivals, almost

We hear from Havana of the numerous arrivals, almost daily, of rebel and English vessels from blockaded ports, principally loaded with cotton. These arrivals establish one fact—that either Mobile should at once be taken or additional vessels of a proper kind be sent to the Eastern Gulf blockading squadrob. An examination of the vessels now composing that squadron will disclose the melancholy truth that there is not one fitted for the duty they have to perform. They are principally sailing cassels, and a few steamers that have not what is most desirable, viz: speed. The removal of the steamers Santiago de Cuba, Quaker City and Mercedita from Admi oace, are four steamers of great speed to cruise between the Tortugas and coast of Cubs. If we had them, four of port of Booles, and for this reason: the vessels this are now successfully running the blockade from that port are of very light draught, not more than five, six or seven feet. They wait their opportunity and take advantage of a fair wind and dark night, and, being able to go almost anywhere it there has been a heavy dew, slip out by the blockading fleet without difficulty. Once at sea, they are comparatively safe, unless they happen to fall in with a straggling cruiser. Whereas, if we had the rate closed between our own possessions and those of Spain, they would have more difficulties to encounter near "the haven where they would be" than in passing through the fleet off the port of dexico, showing the line of the Fiorida roefs and the north coast of Cuba will exhibit the strength of my argument and the necessity for the vessels asked for. Admiral Wilkes has the Rahsmas to look out for with his flying squadron (may 1 be longiven for calling them flying), and he has enough to attend to—more than he can look after properly, as the case of the Ariel proves. This flying squadron should be consolidated with the Eastern Guif squadron under Admiral Bailey, and not be a separate command. Neither is it a politio or economical measure to make Havana the beadquarters of any squadro, when the port of Key West is no near; for it is well established that a vessel of-war letting go anchor there finds it a difficult matter to lift it, especially during the gayetics of the winter season. On the score of economy it is far better that no vessel should enter the port of Havana, for every dollar paid by the government at that place code about thirty per cent premium. We hear of Admiral Wilkes, of this flying squadron, being present in Admara twas present fine flagship, the Wachusett, must have been in the harbor—a contrast, verily: the Union Rear Admiral Theodorus Rales, the man who is more fond of a "poly good light." as he termed the capture of New Orleans, than presenting river trumpets, over a bottle of wine, of course, in the

DEC. 27. 1862. sailed last evening, and the United States steamer Magno-lia, Acting Master Potter, this morning. The news from Cuba has had something to do with the movements of these vessels, and I look for the return of them at any time with the material to swalt the list of prize yessels now in the harbor. Commander Spotte, of the Magnolia, has been condemned by medical survey, and will go North by the first opportunity. I do not know the nature of his disease, but am under the impression that anxiety and worriment at being knot mactive throughout the way, by sniled last evening, and the United States steamer Magno worriment at being kept mactive throughout the war, by division had reached Amozoc, which is but a very short distance from Fuebla, without having met with the sightest resistance. It was supposed that Gen. Forey would establish his headquarters there during the operations against Imebia. Gen. Bazaine had marched from Tampico to the Fortress of Perote, which, however, has been dismantled and the guns taken to Puebla. The

A low weeks at the North and a command suited to his active temperament, with the prospect of participating in the attack on Charleston or taking a prominent part in the duty of "suppressing the robelion," will no doubt bring him back to his usual good health. I trust the opportunity so long desired and seight after by him will be speedily granted, for he has not had the chance he is entitled to, but only on account of his age in the service, but his ambition to be forement in the good work.

The United States steamer Tiogs, Commander A. G. Cleery, has arrived, last from the Heimini Islands, Bahama Banks. By her we hear that the ship Thomas Jefferson, from Now York for New Orleans, ran ashore on the Beminis, where she remained two days, was gotten off with the assistance of the wreckers, and proceeded to Nassau. The Jefferson was loaded with ond and hay on government account. After she was gotten of the reef her crew mutinied, and thirteen of them were brought to this place by the Tioga in irous.

Captain Cierry had heard nothing of the capture of the Ariel until his arrival here. He says that at the time of her capture he was within tweive hours sail of the spot. Such appears to be our luck. The Tropa will take in coal and stores and sail to night for another cruise. May he be nearer than twelve hours sail next time. It seems hard, with all the cruisers we have alloat, that Semmee cannot be captured. However, the luck may turn, and it will be our chance, maybe, before many days, when a good account will be given of the oelebrated 200, beyond a shadow of doubt.

The wreck of the steamer M. Sanford was sold, as she new lays upon the roef, for the sum of six hundred and ton dollars. J. F. Packer was the purchaser, and if the weather holds good be will be able to make a very handsone operation, for her walking beam, shafts, cranks, cylinder, and other parts of her engine, will bring several thousand dollars over here. The boller would answer very well for the United States steamer Magnolis, and could he put on boa

KEY WEST, Dec. 29, 1862. Arrival of the Steamer Santiago de Unita—She Captures the Anglo-Rebet Brig Comet, with a Voluntile Cargo—The Steamer Octovers and Her Prices—A Large Octon Cap Steamer Octomers and Her Prices—A Large Cotton Ca ture—Colonel Goode and the Government of Key West Arrival of the Pransports Hayes and Ericusa - A Knotty Case for Our Price Court - A Fled of Steamers - Arrival of the Transport McClellan-Another Prize Captured by

The first arrival on the list yesterday was the United States steamer Santiago de Cuba, Commander Ridgley from a cruise on the Bahama Banks. She reports the of the Anglo-rebel brig Comet, from Nassau, bound to Dixie, although clearing for St. Johns, as usual, with a carge of woolles and cotton cloths, brandy, wines, segars. salt, &c. A prize crew was put on board and the vessel ordered to this place, where she is hourly expected. The that when he was last in Havana her crew were habit of pulling round him in a boat with a secession flag flying, singing the "Benny BluegFlag" and cursing the officers of the Santiago whenever the opportunity effered. Now she is a prize to the vessel so grossly insuited by her

Octorara has been successful in captering several prises since her departure from this port. One of them may be sidered the prize of the war. It was an ordinary t sont, about thirty feet long, having on board three bales of cotton and a barrel of tar, and was running from Indian river to Nastau. One bale of cotton and one of the crew of two men were lost. The Octorara hoisted overboard the cotton on board, and the boat to her dayits, and is expected here shortly with her other prizes. Cap-tain Ridgley had heard nothing of the capture of the Ariel by the Alabama until his striyed bors. On the day she

was captured he was in company with the Tioga, cruising near Rum Key, about seventy miles from the cast end of

Cuba. He reports the three steamers of the so called sying squadron of Admiral Witnes—viz. the Octoware, Thega and Sonoms—as being utterly worthless for the cuty
they have to perform, having no speed, not being able to
steam over nine knots, and totally unfitted for geing to
sea. It is useless, knowing these facts, to ask the questtion why the Alabama is not captured more than ence;
for the statement of Captain Riggely answers the question
satisfactorily, and it is true in every particular. The
Santingo has come for coal, stores and exteenive repairs to be unchinery. She will be here some
days. The Chartermaster's scamer Reanie left list
evening for Havana on duty connected with the
army. The United States transport steamer Hayas,
from New Orleans, with dates transport steamer Hayas,
from New Orleans, with dates to the 20th inst, arrived
yesterday afternoor. She is now coaling, and leaves tonight for New York. This morning at two o'clock the
United States mail steamer Occan Queen, from Aspinyall,
with paisengers and a largo-smount of treasure, came into
the harbor, and after precuring a few provisions salick
again for New York before daylight. Not haif a dozen
people on the island, knew of her having been here, and
your orrespondent was among the majority of unlucky
ones. She did not meet the convey sent to protect hex.

Colonel Goode has taken hold of mattern on the Island
with great churgy. He has ordered, through the Provest
Marshal, their moval of all offail beyond the limits of the
city, and is beking the most active measures to have the
city in the most perfect order, and thoroughly cleanmed.
The Ninetteth reciment left cover whose in the most fithy
condition. Usterns filled with patrid water, containing
dead cats, dogs and rats could be found a wery direction.
Accumulations of flith could be found everywhere, and
when an examination was had of the condition of the city
generally it was not to be wonitered at that yeliew fever
spread with amazing rapidity after once making fragmanne, nor of di

their programme, nor did they appear to censider anything but working for their own benefit; and yet rumor says there are chances of their returning here. God forbid!

The United States steam transport kriceson arrived this morning from Ship Island. She will take in two hundred and eighty tons of coal and leave for New York. One of the Octorara's prizes arrived this morning. She is the schooner Mont Riano, of Nascan, londed with sail. Her clearance from Nassau was for Fort Royal; but as sail is worth less in Port Royal than Nassau we are free to infer that the vessel was not bound there, but to Dixie. A singular case will come before our Admiratty Court very soon. We have a prize in the harbor, a rebelt schooner from Winniegton, N. C., loaded with cotton, turpentine, s.c. She was captured on the Rahama Banks, at anchor uses one of the islands, and sent to this port. If she is cleared by the court on the ground of being taken within Fritish jurtabletion, is she not liable to capture and condemnation as enemy's property the moment.

Empire the, Key West and City of Bath arrived here this morning and last night, bringing an New Orleans papers of the 27th instant. They will all coal here before going North—The City of Bath will get off to-morrow, and takes the mail. As you may repose, we are all anxiety for further care from the North—The ourselves for the result. The policy pursued on this island during the past six months by the military authorities is looked upon by the majority of our population as indicative of the intention of the government towards all the people of the South, loyal as well as disloyal. There are men here who have been deprived of their all—men who, through all the trouble, were loyal to the government, although daily threatened with the hangman's none and tar and feathers by those who have now left the island. These pursons believed that the war was for the reconstruction of the government, having the constitution of the United States as the basis; but when they see their property—overy continuely are poursessed ol—taken from them unlawfully by military power, and by an act of Congress, debarred from having that property gaturned by the same power that stole it, what are they to think? Certainly not that the rights of loyal citizens under the constitution are to be respected. Under these circumstances can it be wondered that the late government of this island has made secret enemies resuced of open friends? There are men now residing on this island professing the most intune loyalty, holding no aliaye or any other property, ready to fice at a momentic warning to any other clime, that openity and in the most public places advocate the agree sizaling propensities of Colonel Morgan and his crow, and do nothesitate to gleet over the fact that the militarypower has no right to return such scolon property, and yet they say that they support the constitution of the United States. How abourd. One of these terribly loyal men, during the secssion friends. Now he advocates the freedom of all niggers, and "providing overy newborn nigger baby with a red fannel here, wishing to turn an homest penny, amaged himself by manufacturing the states and bars out of the old flag and selling them at molerate prices to escession friends. Now he advocates the freedom of all niggers, and "providing overy newborn nigger baby with a red fannel abili

Acting Matter—Edwin Baboon.

Austiand Sterpoon—Watter R. Sconfold.

Acting Assistant Paymanter—John F. Wood.

Bugineers—Heury Soyder, second assistant, acting

chief W. H. Harris, Frederick G. Coggin, third assistant.

Matter 'a Mites—Joh A. Shaiana, Charies A. Flenning,

George B. Sidell, Franklin E. Ford.

Caylam's Clerk—William A. King.

Paymaster's Clerk—F. G. Kidder.

DEC. 31, 1862.

The transport steamer McClellan arrived last evening from New Orleans, and after coaling will leave for New York. Golonel Cook, of the One Hundred and Thirty sixth New York, sustained a fracture of the collar bone at the time of the wreck of the steamer M. Sanford. He went with his regiment, however, to New Orleans; but the injury was found on arrival there to be of a more serious nature than first apposed, and he returns to New

York in the McChellan on sick leave.

"Wonders will never cease:" for the steamer Magnolie hastaken a prize. Singular to relate, however, Commander nder Capt. Build, ceased when Capt. Spotts took ootgmand of her, and returns as soon as he leaves her. Ill luck ap pears to astend this active and energetic officer, who is, I am rejoices to say, vastly improved in health since being placed on sick leave. It will be deeply mortifying to him,

placed on sick leave. It will be deeply mortifying to him, however, that he does not share in the prize just taken, and have the credit of capturing her.

The Magnotia's prize is the schooner Uncle Moge shows from Havana, with a carge of salt, and bound for Dixie. The Uncle Mose was first captured last June by the United States steamer Tahema, Commander J. C. Howell, loaded with cotton; she was brought to this port, condemned, and sold to Win. Curry, who sent her to Nasau and resold her. Now she returns here to go through the same process once more.

The following steam transports are now in the harbor, bound to New York:—Continental, City of Path, Friesson, Empire City, Key West and McClellan; and the Ben Deford is also here, bound to Port Rayal. Others are hourly expected from the westward.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A NNOUNCEMENT DR. J. WALTER SCOTT, CHIEF Besident Physician to the New York Medical Institute of Electricity and Hysicians, No. 8 Fution square, may delive to consider our the most instruction and somplicated discusses, each as acquisingly considered discussed and somplicated

We are daily curing a class of diseases which in every age, have reduced the highest medical sakill. Send for books, (free). New York Medical Institute of Electricity and Hygness, No. 8 Union aquare, near the corner of Fourteenth attect and Fourth street. Prof. J. WALTER SCOTT, JOHN E. BEDFORD, W. W. SHELDON, Resident Physicians.

A SITUATION WANTED—BY A YOUNG MAN (AME-tican), aged 17 years, in a commission brother's or stul-ping office: has good recommendations; has worked in a shipping office for over a year. Address Terry, box 179 He-cald office.

GEORGE WELLES NICHOLS, AUCTIONEER.

GEORGE WELLES NICHOLS, AUCTIONEER.

RUSSEN, AURIENDA PURNITURE, MIRRORS, HURSEN, AUCTIONEER.

NEILSON & NICHOLS will sell, at auction, on Thursday, Jan. S. at 11 o'clock, at 1.100 and 1.107 Broadway, corner of Twenty-minth street, a large enantity of elegant Furniture, unawed for convenience of sells, the property of a gentleman declining housekeeping, a portion of which was made to order in Faris, and the balance by Vrede, sich echeroder, Reur, and others, for the prevailed by Vrede, sich echeroder, Reur, and others, for the prevailed by Vrede, sich echeroder, Reur, and others, for the prevailed by Vrede, sich echeroder, Reur, and others, for the prevailed by Vrede, sich echeroder, Reur, and others, for the prevailed by Vrede, sich echeroder, Reur, and the prevailed by a lady for the past year, very prompt driver, also, a light city built bracequarter Carriage, itom with moroccopy, has been used but a short time; also a nice two seased Phaeton, with top, for one or two horses; also Hay Critters, Carlaigues on Wednesday, at the above place, or our office, its Pearl street (Hanover square).

LTOUSEKEEPER WANTED.

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED .- WANTED, A YOUNG It hady of genticed address to take charge of a gentlemany house; a young lady who could appreciate a Igood home and kind weatment, and who has some regard for truth, will not a permanent home and a kind friend by addressing, were particulars as to age, circumstances, &c., J. M., but 164 He.

THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXISTING BE-tween S.J. S. Yose and J. R. Thomson, under the from name of S.J. S. Yose & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consents either will sign in liquidation S. J. S. Yose will constitue the business at the same place on his own account. S. J. S. Yose.

New York, Jan. 1, 1863.